News from the …

Denver Service Center

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DSC Gains National Acclaim

Presidential Design Awards bestowed upon NPS Projects

The Denver Service Center has received two Federal Design Achievement Awards in recognition of excellence in federal design work on behalf of the National Park Service.

The awards are for the planning, design, and construction of the Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) Memorial in Washington, D.C., and the rehabilitation of the James A. Garfield National Historic Site in Mentor, Ohio.

"We are thrilled to receive such a prestigious honor on behalf of the National Park Service," said Alex Young, Acting Director of DSC. The Presidential Design Awards Program, bestowed once every four years, is the highest level of federal achievement in design work.

Juries reviewed 338 entries from 46 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and 10 foreign countries before selecting 35 projects to receive the Federal Design Achievement Awards.

The FDR Memorial is told in a series of four garden rooms representing the stages of the man's life: his early presidency, the depression-era social programs, World War II, and his death and legacy.

FDR Memorial: The War Wall Fountain is a powerful space. It has the feel of war and the feel of a man who hated war.

James A. Garfield National Historic Site after rehabilitation. Originally built in the 1830's, it is now a premiere 19th century home. The restoration project brought about a deeper understanding of the time and the president. ¨

New Wetlands Procurement Program

The National Park Service has announced a new procurement program with emphasis on wetlands preservation. Five new indefinite quantity contracts have been released by the Denver Service Center to firms specializing in the planning, design and construction management of wetlands.

"We are pleased to initiate this opportunity for firms specializing in the study of our nation's wetlands. Because of these new contracts, professionals such as botanists, ecologists, and engineers with experience in wetlands preservation will be able to dedicate themselves to parks and regions throughout the United States," said Donna Kalvels, Chief of Contracting Services at the Denver Service Center. "Our hope is that the parks and regions take advantage of this opportunity and utilize the wetlands expertise which now is available to them."

The selected firms include: J.F. New & Associates, Walkerton IN; CH2Mhill, Greenwood Village, CO; Westland Resources, Inc., Tucson, AZ; Olver Incorporated, Blacksburg, VA; and Southwest Wetlands Group, Santa Fe, NM. Each prime awarded contract is guaranteed a minimum of $25,000 during the life of the five-year contract. The maximum task order amount per contract is $500,000. The ceiling for each contract per year is $1 million for a total of $5 million overall per contract.

The contractors will provide consulting tasks and services including wetlands site inspections, feasibility analyses, cost estimating, and wetlands design. In addition, on-site training of National Park Service personnel will be conducted.

The selected firms have experience in design and supervision of construction of wetlands systems ranging from 1000 gallons per day to 40,000 gallons per day. ♦

Did you know...

The Technical Information Center at DSC is the central repository for planning, design, and construction documents for all National Park Service sites.

Information available to you:

- 85,000 technical reports
- 800,000 engineering and architectural drawings
- 30,000 aerial photos
- videos
- electronic files (CADD and GIS)
- bibliographic database

Call: 303-969-2130
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http://amoeba.nps.gov/Amoeba

The Answer is Blowing in the Wind

Thirty-one federal agencies, including the National Park Service, have agreed to purchase a combined 10 megawatts of electrical power from Colorado's utility company 'Windsource' program. This is the largest purchase of wind power in the nation.

Public Service Company launched the state's first wind farm in 1997 in northern Colorado near the Wyoming border. The farm, with 29 wind turbines, has the capacity to generate just 20 megawatts of the roughly 5,000 megawatts of power the utility sells each year.

But Public Service said the government's commitment to buy wind power in Colorado over the next several years will enable the company to build at least 10 more wind towers, boosting the farm's generating capacity to 35 megawatts by 2001.

Energy Secretary Bill Richardson described the wind power purchase by the federal government as the most significant step yet for carrying out President Clinton's executive order last year directing federal agencies to increase their reliance on renewable energy.

The Denver Federal Executive Board organized the wind power purchase. ♦

Alex Young Named DSC Acting Director

Charlie Clapper Retires

The Denver Service Center has a new Acting Director. Alex Young will temporarily fill the center's top spot, which had been vacant due to the retirement of Charlie Clapper.

Mr. Young didn't have far to travel to fill the position – he is the Director of the Administrative Program Center (APC), located in the same building as DSC in Denver.

Mr. Young has completed the Department of Interior SES training program that principally focused on leading people, leading change, and emphasizing communications to build coalitions.

Within the Park Service, Young has participated in numerous service-wide workgroups that have had significant impacts in bureau programs and policies. Such workgroups included: Diversity Action Committee, Strategic Planning (GPRA), Administrative Advisory Council, National Leadership Career Council, Management Succession, Recruitment, Distance Learning, Career Field Competencies, and the Information Management Council.

The Department of the Interior has recognized Young with the Superior Service Award, as well as the Meritorious Service Award. ♦

Sustainability Workshop Held

A conference dedicated to sustainable design was held in Denver on May 22. The goal of the workshop was to chart a course for sustainability for the entire National Park Service.

Sustainable design uses an alternative approach to traditional design that incorporates a change in mind-set. The new design approach recognizes the impacts of every design choice on the natural and cultural resources of the local, regional, and global environments. These designs use fewer materials and have a reduced dependence on natural resources while incorporating renewable and recycled materials.

Guiding principles of sustainable design:

- Save energy by building energy efficient buildings
- Utilize existing buildings and infrastructure wherever possible
- Design communities which reduce a dependence on the automobile
- Reduce material use
- Preserve the local ecosystems and biodiversity
- Select low-impact materials
- Maximize building longevity
- Design a healthy, durable building which is safe and comfortable.

Presenters at the workshop included: Gail Lindsey of Design Harmony in Wake Forest, NC; Donald Prowler of Don Prowler & Associates in Philadelphia, PA; and Joel Ann Todd of The Scientific Consulting Group in Gaithersburg, MD.

Some Sustainable Design Web Sites:
http://www.nps.gov/dsc/dsgncnstr
http://www.nps.gov/renew
http://www.wbdg.org
http://www.BuildingGreen.com
greenclips@aol.com ♦

Sustainable Visitor Facilities at Zion are Unveiled

A ribbon cutting ceremony officially opening the transportation system and new energy-efficient visitor facilities at Zion National Park was held on May 26.

The project includes a state-of-the-art-visitor center which will consume 70% less energy than conventional buildings. This has been done through the use of passive solar heating, natural ventilation, daylighting, and photovoltaic energy generation. In fact, the utility meters on the facility can actually run in reverse (net-metering) selling energy back to the utility company. A computer system ensures that all energy-efficient features work together. Weather data is collected to assist in the energy decisions about the building. The computer then controls the cooling towers, radiant panels, lighting, and windows of the facility.

New Visitor Center at Zion National Park – A model for sustainable design practices in the National Park Service.

Highlights of Sustainable Design of the Zion Visitor Center:

LIGHTING
The primary source of light is natural daylight. A computer system adjusts additional electric light as needed. No incandescent or halogen lights are used.

WINDOWS
Clerestory windows are part of the lighting system as well as a part of the heating and cooling system. Computer simulations helped size the windows to collect the right amount of light. The sun enters in the winter, helping to keep the space heated (passive solar heating) and overhangs protect the glass from the high summer sun. The glass material has a coating to reduce heat loss from the building while allowing light and heat to enter.

The Zion Visitor Center was designed in an "L" shape to block the west windows, which are made from a different glass that block the sun's heat. A tree canopy also minimizes heat gain on summer afternoons.

ENERGY-EFFICIENT LANDSCAPING
Landscaping, including shade structures and existing trees, creates an extension of the visitor center allowing for a smaller building design as well as lower capital and operation costs.

DOWN-DRAFT EVAPORATIVE COOLING TOWERS
When natural ventilation is not adequate, cooling towers help bring the temperature down. Water in the towers evaporates, cooling the air. The cool, dense air 'falls' through the tower and exits through the large openings at the bottom of the towers.

INSULATION
The building is well insulated. The roof is made of structural insulated panels. The panels are tighter than standard frame construction insulation systems, keeping heat out of the building in the summer and within the building in the winter. ♦

Cape Hatteras Lighthouse Project in the Spotlight

Wins 'Academy Award' of Engineering

The relocation project of the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse won the OPAL (Outstanding Projects and Leaders) Award given by the American Society of Engineers. The award is referred to as the "Academy Award of Civil Engineering" and honors the project that best illustrates superior civil engineering skills and represents a significant contribution to society.

The award has been presented since 1960. The only other National Park Project to receive the prestigious honor was the Jefferson Expansion Memorial/St. Louis Gateway Arch presented in 1967.

By the way, the Cape Hatteras Project is featured in this month's National Geographic Magazine.

♦ End of Newsletter ♦

Any ideas or suggestions for the DSC Newsletter can be directed to: Donna_Drelick@nps.gov